

REMARKS

In the Office Action of September 21, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5 and 12 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication 2001/0044965 (Blevins). These claims have been cancelled.

Claims 6-11 are rejected as obvious over Blevins in view of US patent 2817855 (Pratt). The Examiner relies upon Pratt for disclosing all claimed features of the railing. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As seen in Figures 40-45, the L-shaped arms are pivotally connected to the bottom surface of the patient support surface and pivot about an axis parallel to the side edges of the patient support. This allows the railing to be folded under the patient support surface, as seen in Figure 44. The Examiner states that the railing of Pratt is pivotally connected to the bottom surface via element 18. However, as seen in Figure 9, element 18 engages tube 23 which is connected to the side edge of the patient support B by bracket 21. This allows the railing to move in a vertical plane, as seen in Figures 7 and 8, which is not possible if the arms were pivotally connected to the bottom surface.

Respectfully submitted,



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